

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 5**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-138**  
**DATE: December 12, 2005    Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Winter Storm** – A winter storm with snow, freezing rain and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota on November 27-30, 2005, disrupting electrical power and bringing transportation to a stand-still.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** On December 12, the Grand Forks office of the National Weather Service (NWS) reported a small chance of snow and freezing rain with a high temperature around 32 degrees and south-southeast winds of 11 to 16 miles per hour (mph).

The Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) provided the following updates:

**Cass County Electric** – All power was restored the evening of December 1; however, large commercial customers are not yet able to resume normal operations. Crews are doing line patrols and permanent repairs on lines where temporary fixes to restore power quickly had been made. Crews continue to assess damages to lines and poles.

**Ottertail Power** – All towns are back on-line except the city of Galchutt, which is being served by a generator from the North Dakota Air National Guard (NDANG). Otter Tail Power reported all customers have power restored. However, because many repairs are temporary, winds over the weekend of December 9-11 caused a great deal of concern due to the precarious situation with some of these power lines. If one line goes down, the result would be more power outages and repairs would take several months before permanent repairs could be made since power is being rerouted and options are more limited than they were prior to the storm. No power outages occurred this past weekend due to winds and it is unclear at this time if any ice remains on the lines.

**Dakota Valley Electric** – On December 5, all customers in the service corridor had power restored.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven announced on December 9 a formal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), conducted in partnership with local, state and federal officials, will be initiated this week for counties and RECs reporting damage resulting from the November 27-30 snow storm. The N.D. Department of Emergency Services, Division of Homeland Security, received notification that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be participating in the PDA to document damages in Cass, Ransom, Richland and Sargent counties in North Dakota.

**Cass County –**

On December 5, Cass County officials declared an emergency. Local power companies report power has been restored to all customers. However, additional repairs will be required. Cass County government offices ran their facilities and equipment on generator power for three days. The Cass County Highway Department has depleted their initial supply of sand/chemicals for road treatment.

**Ransom County –**

The Emergency Manager reported intermittent power outages were reported throughout the county. Approximately 53 residents were without electrical power and telephone service until the evening of November 29. Dickey Rural Telephone activated several emergency generators to run power for the phone lines. A power outage impacted 980 residents of Enderlin through the night of November 28. Power cooperatives within the county impacted by the severe winter storm include, Cass County Electric, Dakota Valley Coop, and Ottertail Power.

**Sargent County –**

Approximately 825 people in Sargent County were without electricity. Approximately 100 customers lost phone service and about 135 customers did not have water during the first 24 hours. Sixty-four rural residents chose to leave their homes during the outage and stay with family or friends.

Sunshine on December 7-8 provided heat to the power lines allowing the ice to melt.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

---

Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security